



# AETC News Clips

## Randolph AFB, Texas



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### **KellyUSA will be home to thousands of Katrina refugees**

Web Posted: 09/02/2005 12:09 AM CDT

**Sheila Hotchkin and Tracy Idell Hamilton**  
**Express-News Staff Writers**

Days after Hurricane Katrina left staggering numbers of Gulf Coast residents with nowhere to go, several thousand now have a place to call home: San Antonio.

Beginning today, they'll move into Buildings 1536 and 171 at KellyUSA, a military base-turned-civilian business park on the Southwest Side.

Seeking temporary homes for at least 25,000 refugees, the Texas governor's office called Mayor Phil Hardberger on Thursday morning. The mayor agreed to host part of that group.

Within hours, city street-cleaning trucks vacuumed debris from the quarter-mile-long Building 1536, which once stored aircraft components, shipping materials and weapons. Public works employees ground down bolts sticking up from the floor.

"Gotta get rid of the trip hazards," one torch-wielding worker said.

Creating this city within a city is no small endeavor: From the moment the refugees arrive, they will need food, clothing, shelter and medical care.

In the weeks and, almost certainly, months ahead, their needs will grow more complex: schooling for their children, and perhaps even jobs.

"We've never done anything like this," said Keith Berger, chairman of volunteers for the American Red Cross in Bexar County, one of many organizations helping to create the long-term refugee camp.

With the situation still evolving, many details remain unclear. City officials planned to open the buildings today but, as of Thursday night, remained uncertain about what time they would open.

It could be some time before anyone knows how many temporary residents San Antonio will receive and how long they will stay.

"I think it is legitimate to assume we're not talking about next week they're going to go home," Hardberger said. "The city of New Orleans is effectively closed."

It's possible San Antonio will receive more people than it can house in the KellyUSA buildings, Hardberger said.

If that happens, Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff has confirmed that space can be made in the smaller buildings surrounding the SBC Center, although probably not the arena itself or nearby Freeman Coliseum.

*San Antonio Express News*

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District Fire Chief Randy Jenkins said Thursday night that 5,000 to 10,000 people are expected, but "reports are changing even as we speak."

Housing the refugees will cost money, some of which eventually will be recouped through federal disaster aid, insurance and other means.

But, the mayor said, if the city has to advance the money "to keep these people treated in a kind and dignified manner, we will pay that."

On Thursday, Gov. Rick Perry declared a disaster for Texas and asked for federal aid to help cope with the influx of hurricane refugees.

The City Council gave City Manager Rolando Bono the authority to use fiscal year 2005 human development services fund money to provide relief for the thousands of evacuees coming to San Antonio.

The council didn't set a certain amount, Bono said, because the money will be used on an as-needed basis.

"As conditions change we're trying to do what is necessary," Bono said. "The procedures have been streamlined, but not eliminated."

He said this would give the city the ability to react as quickly as possible to a situation that is changing by the minute.

State Rep. José Menéndez asked the council to consider waiving the city's portion of the hotel/motel tax, and Councilman Roger O. Flores initiated a six-signature memo to consider it.

Bono said the city attorney's office is looking into the legality of doing that, as some of the city's portion of the tax pays debt service.

Earlier in the day, Bexar County Commissioners Court made an emergency appropriation of its own: \$50,000 to the San Antonio Food Bank.

Nonprofits, businesses, the faith community and the public are doing their part.

The American Red Cross, Salvation Army, San Antonio Food Bank and South Texas Blood & Tissue Center all are playing a leading role. The mayor said anyone who wants to help the refugees should contact these organizations.

H.E. Butt Grocery Co. has spent the week collecting food for hurricane victims. An H-E-B convoy originally destined for southeastern Louisiana now will be used to feed refugees here.

"Our convoy goes to Kelly at this point," said City Councilman Art Hall, who's coordinating local relief efforts.

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Time Warner Cable agreed to supply digital phone, cable and high-speed Internet service for the KellyUSA shelter, along with two Red Cross shelters already in operation. Time Warner also will supply computers and televisions.

SBC Communications Inc. will provide at least 500 phones to the KellyUSA shelter, along with 75 laptops connected to its high-speed Internet service.

Archbishop José Gomez called the mayor to offer help from Catholic churches and schools.

At least 20 people have contacted the Jewish Federation of San Antonio offering to open their homes to refugees, said Judy Lackritz, the federation's director of community relations. The federation has begun collecting money, clothing and nonperishable food.

"People are so frustrated," she said. "They want to help and don't know what to do."

San Antonio hotels and motels are lowering their rates for refugees who still can afford a room, Hardberger said.

And San Antonio school districts already are enrolling hurricane refugees, many of whom are living with relatives or in Red Cross shelters in San Antonio.

But the influx of possibly thousands of students has school leaders worried.

The Texas Education Agency is working to resolve unanswered questions, including whether to send new students across district lines to keep them from overburdening a single school district — such as the one that serves the KellyUSA area.

Despite challenges, educators plan to welcome the children from Louisiana and Mississippi.

"We have to do what we can for those children and for those families," San Antonio School District Superintendent Rubén Olivárez said. "Our system is ready to do our part when that call comes."

For some of the refugees, their first stop in San Antonio will be a hospital. Leaders of area hospitals met this week to figure out how many beds they had available for the National Medical Disaster System, said Bill Rasco, president of the Greater San Antonio Hospital Council.

Patients will be flown to Lackland AFB, then transferred by ambulance to one of the hospitals, Rasco said.

At KellyUSA, public health staff will be on hand as refugees arrive to help with any immediate medical needs.

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District is lining up suppliers for the most common medications for diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. The district also is lining up counseling services.

As San Antonio braces for a flood of new residents, the mayor felt certain his city would do itself proud.

***San Antonio Express News***

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"Cities, like people, have defining moments," Hardberger said.

For San Antonio, he said, this is one of them.

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### News 4 WOAI's Randy Beamer In New Orleans

LAST UPDATE: 9/2/2005 6:30:03 AM

Posted By: [Maritza Nunez](#)

This story is available on your cell phone at [mobile.woai.com](http://mobile.woai.com).



[Watch this story...](#)

News 4 WOAI's Randy Beamer is traveling with the 433rd Airlift Wing out of Lackland Air Force Base. The group of medics are in New Orleans tonight, preparing to take the most critical patients to hospitals where they can be treated.

New Orleans International Airport is now a triage center, where some of the sickest patients are now being cared for. But many need better care and aid.

The 433rd will transport those patients to hospitals, like the one in Atlanta, where they can get better care.

Keep it tuned to News 4 WOAI for the latest coverage of Katrina's Aftermath. Randy Beamer will have more on 433rd's mission on Friday

*San Antonio*

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### Lackland lends a hand to Katrina victims

Web Posted: 09/02/2005 12:00 AM CDT

**Scott Huddleston**  
**Express-News Staff Writer**

NEW ORLEANS — On a normal day, commercial airliners would take off and land here, bringing visitors from all over to see historic homes, taste some Cajun delicacies or enjoy a lively weekend on Bourbon Street.

That was before Katrina came to visit.

The mood was different here Thursday at New Orleans International Airport, a distribution point for sick, tired and emotionally distraught people trying to escape.

Rain — the last thing this city needs — was falling as a C-17 aircraft carrying a medical evacuation team from Lackland AFB arrived.

"It's going to be nasty out there," said Capt. Edward Greer, a member of the 433rd Airlift Wing's Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

Greer and 23 others with the unit didn't know what to expect when they landed. That's nothing new to them.

They've deployed to combat zones, where unpredictability is a part of life. This time, however, they knew there was a different kind of enemy.

Actually, this is worse than a wartime mission, Greer said.

Capt. Felix Alicea, a flight nurse on the mission, advised the reservists to be ready for trouble. There had been reports, he said, of people on the ground threatening and even firing at emergency medical personnel.

"We don't know how they're going to react to us being there," he said. "They've been without food and water. Some of them have lost everything."

On the tarmac, military aircraft and helicopters carried in the sick, injured and oppressed, along with their children and other family members. People, tired and ravaged, were being shuttled aboard baggage cars to the terminal.



(Photos by Kin Man Hui/Express-News)

A woman is helped from her wheelchair by members of the military at New Orleans International Airport. The airport is serving as a site to process the sick and injured and transport them to various hospitals around the country.



Flight nurses Capt. Felix Alicea (left) and Maj. Michael Rice are shrouded in condensation from a C-17's air vents as they discuss their next move after their arrival in New Orleans. The men are part of the 433rd Airlift Wing in San Antonio, which was sent to New Orleans to transport military medical support as well as transport the sick and injured.

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Inside, the view was dim. A musty smell hung over the airport, and an occasional overwhelmingly sour odor circulated, as much of the complex still ran on emergency power and lacked full lighting and air conditioning.

Tyrone Holmes was one of about a dozen people on cots in the airport's rear staging area, waiting for a military flight out to somewhere. Anywhere.

Holmes has a broken hip. And he has no home — another casualty of Katrina's rampage.

"It's gone," he said. "I lost it all."

It's because of Katrina that the airport was the antithesis of what it always had been.

Instead of accommodating giddy visitors to the city for Mardi Gras or a family vacation, it was a sad dispersal center — a spinning carousel of misfortune — for people needing to get out, but unable to do so.

Where people once gave goodbye hugs or had one last preflight cocktail, workers were running a makeshift intensive care unit. Where people once waited to board a jetliner for their dream vacation, the dead and dying lay.

Few security problems were occurring inside the airport, as guards with assault rifles were guarding the perimeter.

H. James Young, emergency operations specialist with the National Disaster Management System, a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said the airport was serving about 1,000 people a day. How many were making it out, he wasn't willing to speculate.

But he said the airport operation was improving.

Staff Sgt. Beverly Maiden from Pope AFB, N.C., was shaking her hands, trying to work out the spasms in her arms from carrying folded stretchers all day. She said some of the images she saw Thursday also would be hard to shake.

"There are families, children, that have no shoes on," she said. "Look at those people, carrying those plastic bags. They're carrying everything they own in those bags."

If there's one thing that remains unchanged about this airport, it's a diverse bond with a country that takes care of its own, a country whose residents often have passed through its terminal in much happier times.

*San Antonio Express News*

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# AETC News Clips

## Air Force Times



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September 01, 2005

### **Storm dumps six feet of water on Keesler**

**By [Bruce Rolfson](#)**

*Times staff writer*

Keesler Air Force Base along Mississippi's Gulf Coast was flooded by more than six feet of water in some areas when Hurricane Katrina struck on Aug. 29.

There were no fatalities among the 6,000 people who rode out the storm at Keesler, but there was widespread damage to the base's classroom buildings, housing, stores and flight line facilities, said Lt. Col. Claudia Foss, head of public affairs for the Keesler's 81st Training Wing.

Keesler's southern boundary is less than a quarter mile from the Gulf shoreline, while the base's northern side fronts Biloxi's Back Bay.

As of Aug. 31 no one was putting a price tag on the damage to the base or estimating when classes would resume at the Air Education and Training Command center.

While the base recovers, the Air Force has put a 30-day hold on assigning new students and personnel to Keesler. Meanwhile, airmen and their families on Keesler were still under instructions to remain at the base's shelters and not to venture to their homes.

Foss said the base's runways are useable and likely will handle the delivery of relief supplies.

Other bases are preparing to help Keesler.

Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., is sending security forces and civil engineers while Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio is expected to take care of 25 seriously ill patients transferred from Keesler Medical Center.

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## Air Force Times



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September 01, 2005

### **Cadet allegedly thrown from window**

**By Robert Weller**

*Associated Press*

DENVER — The Air Force Academy is investigating allegations that one cadet pushed another out a dorm window, causing him to fall 30 feet and break his back, the school confirmed Wednesday.

The victim's father, Charles Khan of St. Louis, said son Nicholas was attacked in March because he had reported the older cadet, who since has graduated, for sexually harassing a female cadet.

Academy spokesman Johnny Whitaker said investigators were trying to determine whether there was evidence to support a charge of aggravated assault in the incident.

The name of the former cadet, who now is assigned to Hill Air Force Base, Utah, was not released.

The alleged attack was first reported in The Gazette of Colorado Springs and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The Air Force Academy has been beset by scandals over sexual assaults. Dozens of female cadets have said they were punished or forced to resign after reporting they were sexually assaulted.

Charles Khan, in a telephone interview Wednesday, said trouble began when his son intervened on behalf of a female freshman who allegedly had been pressured by the senior to have sex. When the female broke off the relationship, the senior blamed cadet Khan.

The senior and other upperclassmen then began to harass cadet Khan, also a freshman, forcing him to endure extra room and uniform inspections, Charles Khan said.

According to the father's account: On March 13, the senior came to cadet Khan's room and told his roommate to leave. Once inside, he saw a written report on the harassment that cadet Khan was preparing and became enraged. He grabbed scissors, ripped out the window screen and called cadet Khan over, telling him someone was calling for him. Then he threw him out the window.

"I understand that there was an investigation going on, and we were told the assailant would be held back at the academy. I found out about two weeks ago that he had not only graduated but was allowed to move on to his next posting," said Charles Khan.

He said the academy had quickly given his son a medical discharge, even though he wanted the option to return to the academy if he fully recovered from the injury.

Whitaker said investigators completed their report Aug. 16. He said academy lawyers are reviewing it and will make recommendations to the academy's commandant of cadets, Brig. Gen. Johnny Weida. A decision to file charges would have to be made by the superintendent, Lt. Gen. John Rosa.

*Air Force Times*

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